(SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. A National Consultation on the Urban Child sponsored by the Planning Commission, UNICEF and the Ministry of Urban Development, was organised by the National Institute of Urban Affairs in April 1992 in New Delhi.

(b) Participants at the National Consultation were generally of the view that the needs of urban children, especially those living in low income neighbourhoods, need specially targetted attention. Some of the other important suggestions at the Consultation were :

(i) Strategies for provision of social services should be framed keeping in view the different size/class of cities, their financial resource base and attuned to the community's specific needs.

(ii) Health care facilities for the mother and child should be neighbourhood-based, user-friendly in relation to timing and should involve close community participation.

(iii) The problem of malnutrition is more intense in the slum segments of towns/cities and strategies aimed at tackling this problem should take care of disease surveillance and prevention, environmental sanitation, nutrition education through contact with mothers and linked with efforts at developing an appropriate food security system at the household level.

(iv) The school should be the focal point both for formal education with flexibility in terms of timings, multiple shifts and skill based curriculae and special efforts should be made for working out community based and low cost options for early childhood stimulation and strategies for improving the enrolment and retention of the girl child.

(v) Problems relating to children especially in difficult circumstances such as street children, working children, abused children and children in conflict with the law need to be addressed through conscientisation of the public, community counselling units and a revamped rehabilitative system. One of the significant suggestions made was the dire need for mobilising the community to participate in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of programmes and to coordinate the efforts of different Government departments and voluntary agencies in an integrated manner.

(c) In collaboration with State Governments and UNICEF, the Central Government is implementing a scheme called urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP) which seeks to provide social services in an integrated manner in low income neighbourhoods through neighbourhood committees. The Government will utilise the suggestions made at the National Consultation in the implementation of this scheme.

Transfer guidelines for 1992-93

1496. DR. R. K. PODDAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the transfer guidelines for teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas for 1992-93 beginning from 1st May 1992 have not yet been formulated ; and

(b) if so, the justification of ordering transfer of ten teachers in advance for the next session made on 31st March, 1992 ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) The general guidelines for transfer for 1992-93 are under formulation. However, transfers are normally an ongoing process throughout the year specially on medical grounds and other compassionate or administrative grounds. The Chairman in his discretion has allowed certain transfers.